

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
/057 W

-----181153Z 077841 /20

R 181020Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7241

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONGEN CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN, NP

SUBJECT: B.P. KOIRALA ARREST

REF: KATHMANDU 5044

1. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE K.J. BARAL TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 17 THAT HE HAS QUESTIONED B. P. KOIRALA FOLLOWING HIS ARREST IN KATHMANDU. ACCORDING TO IGP KOIRALA IS BEING TREATED WELL AND IS NOT UNDER "HOSTILE INTERROGATION" AND APPEARS IN GOOD HEALTH.

2. IGP SAID THAT GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL IS CONCERNED AT TWO ASPECTS OF KOIRALA'S ACTIVITIES. IN FIRST INSTANCE HMG HAS ASKED B. P. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OVER 4 MILLION RUPEES WHICH WERE ABOARD RNAC FLIGHT HIGHJACKED BY CONGRESS PARTY IN JUNE 1973. KOIRALA IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD AUTHORITIES THAT "FUNDS WERE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE./ THE SECOND, AND PERHAPS RELATED, ISSUE ARE REPORTS THAT B.P. AND HIS FOLLOWERS ATTEMPTED TO PURCHASE LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS FOR USE IN NAPAL. AT THE TIME OF THE RNAC HIJACKING THERE WERE PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT KOIRALA HAD USED THE MONEY TO
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MAKE PURCHASES OF ARMS FIRST FROM CORRUPT INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS, AND LATER FROM WESTERN EUROPE.

3. THE IGP SAID THAT INDIAN AUTHORITIES IN AHMADABAD HAD SEIZED TWO BOXCARS FILLED WITH ARMS APPARENTLY PURCHASED THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION AND DESTINED, IN PART, FOR GEORGE FERNANDEZ AND SUPPORTERS

OF JAYA PRAKASH NARAYAN (REFTEL). THERE WAS, ACCORDING TO IGP, SOME INDICATIONS THAT ARMS WERE ALSO TO BE USED BY NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY.

4. COMMENT: AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO GATHER EVIDENCE AGAINST KOIRALA AND FRESH CHARGES THAT HE HAD PURCHASED ARMS FOR SUBVERSIVE PURPOSES IN NEPAL WOULD BE USEFUL TO GOVERNMENT IN PRESENTING AS DAMNING A CASE AS POSSIBLE. OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN, PERHAPS, ARE REPORTS THAT SOME ARMS WERE SMUGGLED ACROSS NEPAL-INDIAN BORDER IN FAR WEST LATE LAST YEAR AS PART OF PLOT TO ATTACK KING WHEN HE VISITED THAT REGION. THESE REPORTS, IF TRUE, MAY EXPLAIN WHY KING CHANGED PLANS AND VISITED POKHARA REGION, RATHER THAN SURKHET AS HAD BEEN PLANNED. WE ALSO NOTE RECENT REPORTS OF INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN DARCHULA AND OTHER AREAS OF FAR WESTERN NEPAL. ALTHOUGH NO ONE IN KATHMANDU WILL CONFIRM REPORTS, THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT KHAMPAS AND OTHER "UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS" WERE INFILTRATING ACROSS BORDER. GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY REMAINS WARY OF CONGRESS PARTY ACTIVITY AND IS COGNIZANT THAT ARREST OF B.P. DOES NOT NECESSARILY RULE OUT FUTURE TERRORIST ATTACKS, ESPECIALLY SINCE KOIRALA'S YOUNGER AND MORE RADICAL BROTHER, G.P., REMAINS IN INDIA.

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Message Attributes

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